



THE CHEMICAL WORLD OF NAIL SALON WORK: PRACTICES, PROCESSES, AND TOXIC PRODUCTS

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Who we are.

Organizing
and outreach.

Policy
advocacy.

Research.

National
movement
building.

Mission: Improve the health, safety, and rights of nail and beauty care workforce to achieve a healthier, more sustainable, and just industry.

Who are our members?

- Nail salon workers and owners.
- Approx 30 NGO's focusing on workers' and immigrant rights, environmental health and justice, and women's reproductive health.
- Agency partners.

“ I have been most concerned about how hard it's been to carry a pregnancy through term. I have had 2 miscarriages. I don't know if they are due to the chemicals I work with, but I heard they may cause reproductive problems...”

Who is the nail salon community?



- California—over 300,000 licensed to do nails with over 129,000 licensed manicurists
- Vietnamese immigrants comprise up to 80% of nail salon workforce in California
- Vast majority (~ 95%) are female workers, many are of reproductive age
- Average yearly income \$22,500

Nail salon professional concerns

Acute health problems

- ❑ Work-related headaches, dizziness, rashes, respiratory problems, watery eyes and nose.

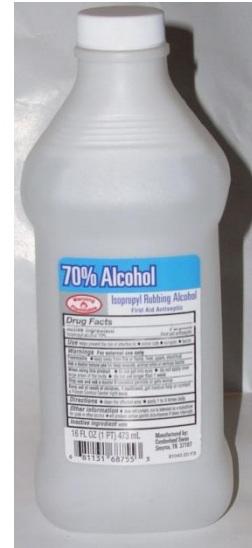
Reproductive and other chronic health problems

- ❑ Occupational hazard line-nail salon workers--3rd largest occupation re: pregnancy related inquiries
- ❑ Biomonitoring shows high phthalate levels
- ❑ Pregnancy complications such as placenta previa, diabetes, gestational diabetes, premature rupture of the membranes, low birth weight and small for gestational age
- ❑ Concerns about regular exposure to known and suspected carcinogens

Multi-step process

Multiple products and chemicals

- ❑ Polish thinner
- ❑ Polish remover
- ❑ Cuticle softener
- ❑ Cuticle oil
- ❑ Sea salt scrub
- ❑ Alcohol
- ❑ Base, then color , then 2 layers of top coat
- ❑ Aerosol quick dry
- ❑ Sanitize tub after ea clients,at end of day, and at least once /week for 6 hours



Dentures, artificial nails, and methacrylates



Methyl methacrylate (MMA) can cause dermatitis and asthma.

Ethyl methacrylate (EMA) — same problems?

Many other methacrylates being used—little or no studies or information on potential health effects.

N,N-Dimethyl-p-Toluidine -- carcinogen. Accelerator in the curing of methyl methacrylate monomers.

Cosmetic products including nail products are un(der)regulated.

The Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) prohibits the marketing of **adulterated** and misbranded or **falsely labeled** cosmetics in interstate commerce.

The FDCA does not:

- ☐ Require pre-market safety testing.
- ☐ Approve cosmetics before they are sold to the public.
- ☐ Initiate and require product recall.
- ☐ Require manufacturers to register.
- ☐ Require the listing of components of fragrance.
- ☐ Require ingredients on labels of professional cosmetics.

Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Programs -- *AB 2125 (Chiu)*



Voluntary HNSRPs

- Less toxic products: toluene, DBP, formaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone
- Improved ventilation
- H&S Trainings

AB 2125

- Review of criteria
- Consumer awareness
- Outreach to local governments



HEALTHY
NAIL SALON
PROGRAM

What nail salon professionals and consumers want!!!



- ❑ Consumers prefer healthy nail salons and are willing to pay more for their services.
- ❑ Owners of recognized healthy nail salons say that the workers experience fewer health problems like headaches and rashes and they see a rise in business.

Be precautionary.

Target chemical or functional groups of substances in nail salon products.

- ❑ Plasticizers like triphenyl phosphate
- ❑ Methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, and other methacrylates
- ❑ Resins like tosylamide formaldehyde resin
- ❑ Solvents like toluene, isopropyl alcohol and methyl ethyl ketone
- ❑ Phthalates like dibutyl phthalate
- ❑ Fragrance, glues, pigments

www.cahealthynailsalons.org



C A L I F O R N I A
healthy nail salon
C O L L A B O R A T I V E
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THANK YOU